

FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

APRIL, 1950

178 F.T.A. Inc.

Price Five Cents

60 Leaders Map Plans of Local 19

A successful weekend leadership conference attended by Brothers Donald Henderson and Joseph Califf of the National Office was held by Local 19 in Memphis, Tenn.

Some 60 officers and plant leaders of the local attended sessions of the two-day conference, although because of work schedules in the plants it was impossible for all to attend every session. The conference heard reports by Brother Califf on women's auxiliary and shop stewards work, by Local President John Mack Dyson on consolidation and new organization and by Brother Donald

Henderson on political action and FTA's program and the latest development in the fight to maintain a militant democratic international union.

The conference served as a two-day workshop in which the leadership had a chance to carefully examine, discuss and work out proposals to fit the specific problems facing Local 19.

Since the conference the membership has already gone to work to carry out the proposals of the conference. A local-wide organizing committee is functioning, a charter

has been granted to the Women's Auxiliary and proposals to strengthen the shop steward system and the Council are being carried out.

The membership wishes to express appreciation for the assistance of the national office by Brothers Henderson and Califf and also C. W. Fowler who prepared a report for the conference on Women's Auxiliary. The conference and its program was organized by a rank-and-file committee composed of Brothers Earl Fisher, Dave Ruff, Henderson Davis and Sister Thomas with the help of the Local President and the Business Agent.



Moranda Smith

Sister Moranda Smith, a beloved leader of FTA, a courageous fighter for the rights of all workers, died at her post this month.

Sister Smith's leadership pioneered in building a better life for thousands of tobacco workers through FTA, and was felt in all sections of the union.

A tobacco worker herself, Sister Smith gave her time, her energy, her great ability and her life itself to the betterment of living standards for the rank and file from which she came.

Just before her untimely death, Sister Smith had been one of the outstanding leaders in the great struggle to preserve the unity and the hard-won gains of 10,000 workers at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem, N. C., where, with great contributions from her, FTA Local 22 defeated the splitters and wreckers who would have destroyed the union.

Born in Dunbar, S. C., Sister Smith came to Winston-Salem when she was five. She worked 15 years in the tobacco stemmeries there, joining FTA when Reynolds was organized in 1944. She quickly became a leader in the union, both locally and in the international.

When she died, Sister Smith was a member of the FTA International Executive Board, FTA International Representative, member of the National Board of the Civil Rights Congress, of the Executive Board of the Congress of American Women, of the National Council on African Affairs, of the Progressive Party National Committee on the Negro Vote, and numerous other progressive organizations.

80 WINS UNION SECURITY VOTE

By a smashing vote of 2,748 to 72, FTA Local 80, Camden, won its union security election.

The overwhelming vote confirms the maintenance of membership clause in the new contract. Local committees will now begin calling on non-union workers to join up at once.

Meantime, the Chicago plant

of Campbell Soup, FTA Local 194 has signed up more than 2,400 workers on a petition for a similar election, scheduled for early May.

Local 194, Rival Dogfood Division, has also won a union shop election, with 74 workers out of 81 eligible voting for the union.

A Tale of Two Checks ...

This is a tale of two checks. Above is one of them, a check for \$455.91 back pay won by FTA Local 43 for W. K. Stancil after the Dade City, Fla. FTA local took up his discharge as a grievance. On the grievance committee that won Brother Stancil's reinstatement and back pay were Local 43 President James McGuire, Financial Secretary 'Red' Thomas, Shop Steward Elmer Summerall, John G. Lackner, assisted by FTA Intl. Representatives Larry Larsen and Warren Horie. Now look at the second check, just below. ...

LOCAL 188
FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL
AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION
OF AMERICA
No. 2505
PAY TO THE ORDER OF George Ardelean \$ 600.00
DOLLARS
CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK
AND TRUST COMPANY 3-18
PHILADELPHIA 310
C-3
LOCAL 188
FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED
WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA
FINANCIAL SECRETARY
TREASURER

This check tells a different story. The man to whom this check is made out was the former Business Agent of FTA Local 188, who went over to a CIO raiding union. Just a few days before he left, this check and eight others amounting to a total of \$973.60 were made out in his name and cashed. All the checks were made out to the same individual, on the same day, and just a few days before he went over to the CIO raiders. Quite a contrast with the check above.

Civil Rights Sellout

By C. W. Fowler

The Truman administration finds itself in a considerable lather over the McCarthy "charges" that the State Department is just a hotbed of reds. The newspapers are hammering it pretty hard.

This is natural enough, because the owners of newspapers still suspect the Democrats of having some lingering remnants of the old New Deal spirit left. They should know better, of course, but perhaps they don't or just like to pretend that they don't.

If the editorial redhunters now hammering President Truman through Senator McCarthy were to read their own papers—specifically the papers of April 14, 1950—they wouldn't worry about the New Deal being revived or the Fair Deal being brought to life.

On that date, the newspapers officially recorded the fact that powerful leaders in the Administration party have publicly killed off one of the main points in the Fair Deal and the 1948 election platform—the issue of civil rights.

The word came right from the horse's mouth in a primary campaign speech by Democratic Senator Lister Hill of Alabama. Senator Hill is an important Administration man, a member of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee which decides what legislation shall be pushed and what shall be pigeonholed. Said Senator Hill:

"I tell you it is the power and influence of your Senators and Congressmen that has made possible defeat of FEPC and other so-called civil rights bills. They hold this power and influence as members of the Democratic party."

"The anti-poll tax bill is bottled up today in a subcommittee of the Senate Rules Committee. Senator John C.

Stennis (Democrat, Mississippi) is chairman of this subcommittee because of his membership in the Democratic party. If he were a member of the Dixiecrat splinter party he could not be chairman and could have little influence in the fight against civil rights bills."

(Note: Sen. Hill doesn't like the Dixiecrats, and this is how he tells Alabama primary voters that the Democrat regulars are better.)

The Senator continues: "The general civil rights bill is bottled up today in a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Eastland (Democrat, Mississippi) is the chairman of this committee. If he were not a Democrat, he could not be chairman of this or any other committee."

"As a Democrat, I hold a place on the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. I led the fight in committee against the FEPC bill and the committee dropped it like a foundling on the Senate's doorstep—without a word in its favor."

(Note: the Senate Labor Committee also holds the fate of Taft-Hartley repeal.)

And adds this pillar of the Truman administration: "If our group of Southern Senators is to continue to defeat these rights bills, we must keep the power and influence we hold as members of the Democratic party. I also warn that the Republicans are committed to civil rights."

There it is, right on the table. The majority powers that run the U.S. Senate not only have no intention of pushing civil rights, they boast that they, as leaders in Senate committees, are the ones that keep them bottled up.

Can hypocrisy go further?

Yes, it can. The Republicans are using this issue in their campaign material to blast the Democrats.

Senator Hill is right, the Republicans are committed to civil rights, and have been for years. Yet the same Republicans who orate about their opponents' failures on civil rights had the same chance when they controlled absolute majorities in Senate and House from 1946 to 1948. What did they do about civil rights? The same thing that Hill now boasts the Democrats do.

Civil rights is the most burning domestic issue in America today. With Taft-Hartley repeal, it was the top promise in the 1948 Truman campaign.

Why is nothing done? We can look to the failure of the top officials of the labor movement—CIO and AFL both—to mobilize any protest for the answer.

Just as they sold out on Taft-Hartley, these same leaders are so tied to party apron strings that they refuse to organize or even permit any protest that might be critical of the politicians.

Neither Green, nor Murray, nor Carey, who talk a good civil rights line, has so much as deplored the attitude revealed by Senator Hill, a top Administration supporter.

What does this mean? It means that the rank and file, Negro and white, of all national origins, creeds and political beliefs, must take this fight for civil rights to the Congress and the people and force them to make good on their promises.

After all, it's the rank and file—Negro and white, of all national origins, creeds and political beliefs—who suffer from the lack of civil rights. They suffer because discrimination divides them, weakens their unity and strength against exploitation, and adds to the bosses' profits.

The politicians don't suffer from discrimination against working people. They thrive on it—just as the politicians and the bosses thrive on Taft-Hartley.

78 Supports Unity Call

Strong support for the labor unity proposals of John L. Lewis and sharp condemnation of Philip Murray and Walter Reuther for "rejecting Lewis' call for unity," and for turning down United Mineworker financial aid to steel and auto strikers was expressed in a resolution of the Executive Council of FTA Local 28.

"We welcome and support without qualification the call of John L. Lewis and the UMWA for unity," the resolution said. "We feel his proposal is timely and reflects the desire and determination and will of the overwhelming majority of rank and file union members."

Strong condemnation of the Murray-Reuther action in rejecting unity and financial aid was expressed in the resolution, which said it "demonstrated conclusive proof of their complete sellouts to the administration and the enemies of labor."



DON'T SAY IT!

According to Newsweek, the recent reports of agricultural workers' children dying of starvation in California's San Joaquin Valley are "just so much hokey." According to Newsweek, nobody died, nobody even got hungry and if they did it was their own fault. Why, it exclaims indignantly, many of the workers made as much as \$6.00 a day during picking time, "but rare indeed is the farm worker who salts anything away."

George ("You Must Be From Harlem") Baldanzi, chief CIO hatchetman at the 1949 convention and generalissimo of the illfated CIO raid against FTA Local 22 in Winston-Salem, is now due to get the ax from Textile Workers Union President Emil Rieve at the union's May convention. Seems that phonies fall out just as thieves do.

Incidentally, Baldanzi's troubles are a reflection of the total failure of the CIO Southern Organizing Drive, which he also headed. Textile Union officials now admit they've lost ground in the South, where the bulk of the industry is. As usual, a steady policy of discrimination, of no wage increases and raiding against other unions has resulted in lower conditions for the workers and loss of membership for the union whose leaders follow such a policy.

J. Parnell Thomas, once the chief unAmerican of them all, is about due for parole. He got only eight months for defrauding the government, though he could have got up to 32 years and a \$40,000 fine. This week, President Truman pardoned ex-Mayer Curley of Boston, who was jugged twice—once for impersonating someone else on an exam for a government job and the other time for fraud.

But Harry Bridges, the man who led westcoast longshoremen from \$16 a week and semi-slavery to a living wage and a democratic union, a man whose leadership has been of inestimable help to countless thousands of American workers—Bridges gets five years on the testimony of hired perjurers, pathological liars and union haters.

Senator McCarthy, Republican, rebuffs the State Dept.

with the backing of top GOP leaders. In "answer" Truman appoints John Foster Dulles, chief Republican foreign policy expert, as a top adviser in the State Dept. Dulles was to have been Dewey's Secretary of State, but Dewey was beaten. Dulles was also soundly beaten by New York voters when he ran for the Senate. Some people may wonder why we bother with elections.

The trouble, however, isn't with elections. It's with the Tweedledum and Tweedledee candidates that the voters have to choose from.

An advertising executive in Baltimore is promoting a little button that has printed on it "Business IS Good", with the hope it will scare away a depression. Most workers over 30 can remember similar bright ideas back in Hoover's time, when the Great Engineer asked Tin Pan Alley to write a song to do the same job. It didn't.

Here's a few statistics you might try on those who think a national health program would be "socialistic." Four million children in the U.S. have bad eyesight; one million have bad hearing; 20 million need dental care; six million have bad tonsils or adenoids; one child out of three needs general medical care. Why don't they get it? Because they're children of the 18 million American families whose parents can't afford the doctors, dentists and medicines they need.

Farmers income was off 10 percent in 1949, and all the signs point to a deeper cut in 1950. In case you've forgotten, the great Hoover depression started as an agricultural depression, before it swept the whole nation.

Local 82 Upholds FTA

Acting at the regular membership meeting, FTA Local 82, Modesto, Calif., a resolution of complete support to FTA was moved and carried in concurrence with action taken by the local's executive board.

The motion was carried unanimously. Local 82 has experienced several raiding attempts by the AFL Teamsters, and in line with CIO raiding policy, can expect to be raided by CIO officials in California.

Back to the Hungry 30's?

With more than six million unemployed, and the list of those who have exhausted all unemployment compensation constantly growing, a serious crisis in relief is moving in on the workers.

In Pennsylvania, for example, there are now 750,000 unemployed and over 400,000 on relief. In New York city alone 300,000 are on relief. Out in the California valleys, children are dying literally of starvation. In the South, the suffering among Negro workers and sharecroppers is intense.

Congress and the Truman administration are doing less than nothing about the situation. Truman's Secretary of Commerce spends much of his time issuing optimistic statements, just as Herbert Hoover did 20 years ago.

At the same time, the states and cities are launching an all-out drive not to provide jobs or raise living standards among the unemployed, but to cut already miserable assistance appropriations. New York City has cut relief 10 percent. Pennsylvania has knocked \$2 a week off its assistance allowance, which at best brought about \$8 a week per person to a family of four.

As usual, Negro and other minority group workers and their families suffer most, together with farm workers who receive no unemployment compensation or social security of any kind.

In Madera County, California—an area of huge commercial farms—the county health officer is quoted as saying: "If you came down to me, I would say sterilize the whole bunch of them"—the "bunch" being the agricultural workers whose children have been dying of starvation.

This is Hooverism at its worst. Apparently the "authorities" in charge of public welfare have learned nothing in the past 20 years.

President Truman talks "prosperity" as the unemployed lines grow longer every day. The Democrats and the Republicans and the newspapers holler "red" at anyone who protests—while relief is cut and a steady chiselling war is carried on against the poor.

The people organized in the 1930's and after a thousand bitter struggles they got the New Deal, which brought some improvements in their conditions, social security and the like.

It looks like that battle has to be started all over again in the year of grace 1950.

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America

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Armando Valdes General Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Lathan, Armando Ramirez Vice-Presidents

Donald Henderson National Administrative Director

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FTA 26 BLASTS CIO RAIDING

A unanimous resolution by the Executive Board and the membership of FTA Local 26, Suffolk, Va., strongly blasts CIO raiding and pledges to refuse to sign any form of CIO application card.

Pointing out that Local 26 chose FTA "under the leadership of Donald Henderson as their bargaining agent" back in 1938, the resolution declares: "Since 1938 the employees of Planters Nut and Chocolate Co. have seen their wages grow, their hours become shorter and their working conditions improve each year under the banner of FTA, and

"The employees of Planters Nut and Chocolate Co. have lived with democracy in their

union hall because of the basic policy of FTA not to discriminate within its membership regardless of age, creed, color, or political and religious beliefs," and "have helped build other FTA unions in the South such as FTA 22, 10, 45 and others, therefore

"Be it resolved that we repudiate the raiding tactics of CIO" and "that every member and friend of FTA Local 26 refuse to sign one CIO card from any CIO organizer, whether his name be Earl Davis, or any other raider representing CIO."

The resolution was ordered sent to CIO President Philip Murray, George Baldanzi "and other CIO disrupters of free trade unions.

No Discrimination In Van Camp As 64 Acts

There will be no job discrimination at the Van Camp Seafood Co. in San Diego, Calif., so long as FTA Local 64 holds the contract.

This was made clear in a letter from Van Camp management to Local 64, which said: "We wish to inform each and every one of you that the management of this firm has always had a policy of no discrimination and we refer you to our policy which is reaffirmed in your Labor Contract. Neither the Company nor the Union shall discriminate against any employee because of race, creed, sex or political beliefs."

In leaflets announcing the reaffirmation of the no discrimination policy and denouncing the current CIO raid, Local 64 points out:

"FTA Local 64 organized the

workers at Van Camp cannery in 1937. In the years that followed FTA Local 64 has established the highest wage rates of any fish cannery in the United States.

"FTA Local 64 has changed the wage picture at Van Camp's from a minimum hourly pay of 33½ cents an hour in 1936 to a guaranteed minimum today of \$1.45 an hour, with average hourly piece rate earnings ranging from \$1.80 to \$2.00 an hour."

Accusing the CIO raiders of "playing the boss' game," the union says: "The key to keeping and improving our contract, to going forward to new gains, to stopping the machine threat to our jobs and wages is:

"United in FTA Local 64! Fight the boss' machine on the jobs! Fight the boss' machine in national CIO!"

Win 5c in Carnation

Workers at the Carnation Co. in Cambridge Springs, Pa., are more contented now that FTA Local 335 has won a contract renewal with a five cent straight raise and other improvements.

The contract also regulates work by foremen and supervisory apprentices, who had been taking work away from regular production members; company quickly agreed to the raise. On the Negotiating Committee were Albert Knuth, president, Edward J. Hamilton, vice-president, James Kuhn, recording secretary, Robert M. Finney, Glenn Thayer, Carl Archacki, Jr., Frank E. Knuth and Archie Melvin.

5000 Came to Mourn Moranda Smith

Five thousand workers came to mourn Moranda Smith, the greatest outpouring of people at a funeral in Winston-Salem's history.

They came to pay their last respects to a great woman, a courageous fighter, a strong leader from the rank and file who gave her life for the workers.

They heard Sister Smith praised by the leaders of FTA, by ministers, by the world famous Negro artist and people's leader, Paul Robeson, by progressives from all over the nation whose messages poured into the Old Goler Memorial Church where she lay.

But above all they came because Moranda Smith was one of themselves, a rank and file worker who had known bitter poverty and oppression, and who saw the way out for all workers through a strong, militant, united union—FTA.

John Tisa, acting general president of FTA, spoke. Robert Lathan, international vice-president of FTA and one of Sister Smith's closest co-workers, spoke. Donald Henderson, national administrative director of FTA addressed the mourners. Armando Ramirez, international vice-president, was among them. Robert C. Black, co-chairman of Local 22, was an honorary pallbearer.

The leaders and the rank and file were there. They came not only to mourn but to pledge renewed devotion to the issues Sister Smith had stood for, the rights she

had fought to maintain for all workers, regardless of race, creed, color, political belief or any of the things that evil forces use to divide the workers.

The death of Sister Smith, cut off at 35 just as a great and useful career was unfolding, came at a time when these same evil forces, some of them masquerading as union leaders, had tried in vain to destroy the largest local union in the South, Local 22 of FTA.

Her death came just after the leaders of the national CIO, through raiding and deliberate disruption, were trying to serve the R. J. Reynolds Company in the way they knew best—by tearing Local 22 apart. They failed, and Local 22 lives, though one of its pioneer builders and leaders is gone.

Among the speakers, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers and flower-bearers were the following:

Speakers and singers: Mrs. Eva M. Ellis, Donald Henderson, Robert Lathan, Mrs. Irene R. Davenport, John Tisa, Mrs. Pearl Lawes, Paul Robeson, Reverend Hunter Bess.

Honorary pallbearers: Reverend Frank O'Neal, Mr. Robert Black, Mr. Karl Korstad, Mr. George Murphy, Mr. Clark Sheppard, Reverend R. P. Person, Mr. George Sims, Mr. Lonnie NeSmith, Mr. Willie Greer, Mr. Armando Ramirez, Mr. Harry Shelton, Mr. Sid Fishman.

Pallbearers: Mr. Walter Friend, Mr. Jerry Pearson, Mr. Marcellus Penn, Mr. Herbert McNairy, Mr. William McGirt, Mr. Sam Williams, Mr. John Myers, Mr. Evander Rogers.

Flower-bearers: Mrs. Rosa Mitchell, Miss Vivian Bruce, Miss Thelma Ginyard, Mrs. Virginia White, Mrs. Emma

McNairy, Mrs. Lola Bates, Mrs. Anne Ross, Miss Claudia Brown, Mrs. Sallie Mitchell, Mrs. Frances Korstad, Miss Mildred Gilliam, Mrs. Maggie Cook, Mrs. Juanita Puryear, Mrs. Zoldean Hemric, Mrs. Julia Wilson, Mrs. Thelma Ennis, Mrs. Alice Harris, Mrs. Naomi Dalton.

FTA Statement

In a statement issued on behalf of FTA, the national officers said:

"The death of Sister Moranda Smith is not only a great loss to FTA and the tobacco workers she led so valiantly, but to the entire American working class.

"Sister Smith was a courageous fighter against discrimination, a fighter for the rights of women workers, and a devoted leader of the rank and file of our union.

"FTA Local 22, and other local unions of FTA, stand as a monument to her untiring work for the betterment of the lives of thousands of food and tobacco workers throughout the nation.

"She will be deeply missed not only by the thousands of workers who knew her, but also by thousands of working men and women who benefited by her courage and leadership."

The statement was issued by FTA Acting President John Tisa, Secretary-Treasurer Armando Valdes, International Vice-Presidents Robert Lathan and Armando Ramirez, and National Administrative Director Donald Henderson.

Local 75 Wins Raise

A straight three cents across the board plus eight cents on an inequity was won by FTA Local 75 at the Gulf Atlantic Warehouse Co. in Houston, Tex. Gulf Atlantic runs three cotton compresses and is owned by Anderson-Clayton, largest cotton factors in the world.

Two other compresses in the area, Port City and Southern Compress and Warehouse, stipulated they would pay whatever increase was won in Gulf Atlantic. When they follow through, some 600 workers will benefit by the increase.

MEMORIAM

Charles A. Hauth, financial secretary of FTA Local 80, Camden, N. J., died suddenly last month.

Brother Hauth had been an active member and pioneer builder of Local 80 since 1940, when it was first organized and became affiliated to FTA.

He is greatly missed by his co-workers in the local and by all who knew him. FTA wishes to express its deepest sympathy to his family and to his friends and associates in the union.

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America

The following is the financial report of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers of America, covering the fiscal year of January 1, 1949, through December 31, 1949. A detailed report itemizing each sum of income and expenditure is available at the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, National Headquarters, FTA.

Fraternally submitted,
Armando Valdes, Secretary-Treasurer, FTA.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year January 1, 1949—December 31, 1949

RECEIPTS

Dues	\$300,793.06
Fees	20,850.18
Assessments	12,581.25
Sale of supplies, etc. ...	5,024.06

TOTAL \$339,248.55

Total assets at end of fiscal year (cash, investments, property) \$ 32,071.02

Total liabilities at end of fiscal year \$ 33,711.57

April 30, 1950.

DISBURSEMENTS

Per capita and assessments	\$ 20,529.28
Salaries	135,298.55
Taxes (Federal and state)	1,833.57
Administrative	34,646.16
Organizing	175,126.45

TOTAL \$367,433.99

(signed) ARMANDO VALDES, Secretary-Treasurer, FTA.

STEP UP DRIVE AGAINST UNION DEPORTATIONS

A mass campaign to stop the threatened deportation of five prominent leaders and rank and file members of FTA Local 7 has been launched by the Local 7 Defense Committee of Seattle, Washington.

Sparking the drive with thousands of copies of a new folder outlining the Immigration Dept. attempt to break the union by exiling its leaders, the Local 7 Committee is appealing for a minimum defense fund of \$5,000 in contributions from trade unionists. Headquarters of the committee is at 213 Main St., Seattle.

"For years the employers have tried to destroy Cannery Workers Union Local 7, FTA," the defense leaflet says. "They have tried to bribe the leaders. They, and their stooges, have formed company unions. They have tried to frighten the workers with the red bogey by calling the leaders Communists.

But every attempt has failed.

"So now the U. S. Immigration takes over. They have revived the old worn-out charge of 'communism.' The Immigration Dept. is desperately trying to frighten workers into becoming stoolpigeons. But they will fail as the bosses did before them—if you will help in the fight."

After listing early martyrs who were murdered in building the union, the defense committee cites the record of intended deportation victims such as Local President Vrhls Mensalvas, Business Agent Ernesto Mangoang, Board Member Ponce Torres, and rank and filers Joe Prudencio and Casimiro Absolar as proof that the Immigration Dept. is trying to take over where the bosses failed.

"They will not succeed!" the committee leaflet declares.



Hey Bud... you following me?

HIT BRIDGES FRAMEUP

The frameup verdict and sentence against Harry Bridges was denounced by John Tisa, acting general president of FTA and by two of the largest FTA locals this week.

In a statement on the Bridges sentence, Tisa called it a "frightening demonstration of the whipped-up hysteria against militant labor unions that grips the nation" and added: "This is all labor's fight just as the Mooney case was and will be won a great deal quicker."

FTA Local 80, in a resolution signed by Business Manager Anthony Valentine, declared: "Failing to smash his militant union, the government and the top officers of the CIO, along with the AFL Seafarers union, have combined to find him guilty of a charge that he was cleared of several years back

by the U. S. Supreme Court."

Acting at a regular membership meeting, the SWH Division of FTA Local 78 said the verdict was "a gun aimed against the liberal, democratic institutions of this country, and particularly at the progressive section of the labor movement of which we are proud to be a part."

Accusing national CIO leaders of approving and supporting the Bridges persecution, the resolution said: "We will drive from our ranks those who red bait and try to divide our union. There is no place in FTA Local 78 for red baiters, stool-pigeons and agents of the bosses even though they attempt to conceal their actions behind the American flag or justify them on the basis of alleged patriotism."

Challenge Foreman Votes, Intimidation in Reynolds Poll

A sharp challenge to the conduct of the election in the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. has been filed with the Natl. Labor Relations Board by FTA Local 22, which won the election by a clear majority.

The challenge and protest demanded either immediate certification of FTA 22 as collective bargaining agency, in view of the fact that a clear majority voted for the union despite election irregularities on the part of the company, or a new election under adequate safeguards.

The FTA protest took two forms, first against the presence of numerous foremen and supervisory employees on the voting lists and second against the general campaign of intimidation and open incitement to violence in the plants and in Winston-Salem.

Approximately 125 such violations are listed in the FTA protest, which pointed out that due to the attitude of the NLRB official in charge it was impossible to list many more that occurred.

Other violations protested by 22 include foremen calling in workers to threaten them

against voting for FTA, promising \$10 bonuses for each year of service if the union were defeated, supervisors directing "employees to wear red ties and white shirts on the day of the election to show their loyalty to the company," and similar acts of intimidation.

One supervisor, the union said, "built a coffin to bury Local 22 and displayed and marched it around on the floor."

Ku Klux Klan Involved

The union protest called attention to a long list of terroristic acts incited by the company in Winston-Salem, including violent radio speeches by the mayor calling the union "an enemy in our midst" and similar open invitations to violence against the union and the workers.

As a result of this campaign, the Ku Klux Klan stepped in with phone calls and anonymous letters threatening active union workers and other "cowardly and despicable efforts to bring terror to the hearts and minds of the workers, both white and Negro," the local protest pointed out.



PRODUCTIVITY GOING UP

By Joseph Calif
Research & Education Director

The speedup drive in American industry is paying off for the boss. Productivity, which means how much you as a worker can produce on your job, is going up fast.

This means lower labor costs and bigger profits for the bosses. For workers it spells speedup, heavier workloads, fewer jobs, and growing unemployment.

Before the war, the productivity of American factory workers increased at an average of three per cent per year. In 1949 the rate of increase was more than four per cent, according to the National Industrial Conference Board, an employers' research agency connected with the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

In many industries output per worker has increased enormously in the last year or so. Take General Motors, for example, the world's largest corporation and giant of the auto industry where assembly lines run at a man-killing pace.

The output of GM workers, measured in terms of output of cars per employee, was 22 per cent greater in 1949 than in 1948. As a result, profits jumped 49 per cent to \$656,000,000, the biggest profit ever made by any company.

Close to Home

Coming closer to home, let's look at Campbell Soup Company, leader of the canning industry. In 1945 workers in Campbell Soup's Chicago plant produced an average of 1.8 cases of soup per man hour of work. By 1948, the rate of production had been speeded up to 2.4 cases per man hour. By March 1949 it was up to 2.5 cases.

This means that in a little more than 3 years' time the output of Campbell Soup workers increased by 39 per cent. In other words, they have been speeded up at the rate of 12 per cent per year, or three to

four times more than the average factory worker during the same period.

One of the main reasons for rising productivity is the new plants and machinery on which American business has spent more than 70 billion dollars during the last five years. You can buy a lot of machines for 70 billion bucks, even at today's high prices.

The cigar industry affords a good example of what new machinery means in terms of workers' output and jobs. For the past two years, cigar factories have been installing double-die machines which turn out one-third more cigars than the old-style machines, with the same number of workers.

What has been the result? Almost as many cigars were manufactured in 1949 as in 1947. Yet these cigars were produced by 10 per cent fewer workers, who worked three per cent fewer hours per week. Since this machine was first introduced, 5,000 cigar workers have lost their jobs.

Here are some other examples of new machines and methods which spell loss of jobs and increased speedup in FTA industries in the near future:

Displacing Workers

• The Campbell Soup Co. is developing a continuous cooker which eliminates all the labor from the time the cans leave the filling and closing machines until they reach the labelling machines. When these machines are in full operation, it is expected they will eliminate more than 1,000 jobs in the company's Camden plant during the peak of the tomato season.

• Tomato peeling is a hand operation which probably requires more labor than any other job in the canning industry. A machine has just been invented which peels tomatoes automatically.

• Packing tuna fish in cans is another hand operation for which a machine has been invented which is eliminating the jobs of hundreds of women cannery workers.

• Other new cannery machines include such things as an automatic peach pitter

which increases output 350 per cent, and a retort loader-unloader which eliminates from 7 to 11 men from each canning line.

• A machine has been developed which removes the stems from tobacco leaves at high speed without the use of any labor. A relatively few machines of this kind could displace thousands of tobacco stemmery workers in the South.

• The packing shed industry is hard at work figuring out ways to cut down its labor costs. According to C. B. Moore, managing director of the Western Growers Assn.: "We can see a trend which will probably lead within a short time to the possibility of eliminating from 50 to 75 per cent of packing house labor" (underlining added). Packing in the field and bulk packing are some of the labor saving schemes being tried.

No Help Wanted

Looming large on the horizon is the use of electronic devices to replace workers. It has been estimated that such equipment can permanently displace more than half of America's present industrial workers at present wage and hour levels.

One example of what this can mean in terms of jobs is an electronic egg processing machine operated by push-buttons which was installed in a large food factory. The machine, operated by three persons, candles, grades and packages more eggs than 34 workers whom it displaced handled before. It paid for itself in four months' time and the company's profits increased more than 200 per cent.

There is much the union movement can do to protect workers who are affected by these changes. Among other things, unions should fight for a 30-hour work week with no cut in take-home pay, no speedup and no increase in workloads above reasonable levels, and severance pay for workers displaced by new machinery.

Above all, unions should work for the adoption of economic and political policies which will make possible jobs at decent wages for all who want to work.

